

NSW EVENTING COUNCIL INC.

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at **West's Leagues Club.**
10 Old Leumeah Road. LEUMEAH
December 9th 2008

PRESENT

President: Sharmayne Spencer

Vice Presidents: Shane Rose, Bronwyn Doong

Treasurer:

Elected Secretary:

Committee: Vince Roche, Alex Townsend, Judy Fasher, ,

Delegates: Tina Stafford, Keith Parrish, Margot White, Rose Read, Sue Gunn.

Members: Vicki Burgess, Emma Darcy

Apologies: Helen Hamilton-James, Jade Findlay, Neil Kennedy, Geordie Kennedy, Alison Duthie, Carrie McInnes, Grant Johnston, Dennis Pigott, Sylvia Gordon, Darryl Burgess, Susie Kearnes, Andrea Webb, Camilla Mowbray, Angela Shacklady, Roger White, KA White, Fabio Giocomin, Penny Rose, Holly Parker.

Andrea Webb & Susie Kearnes apologised as they were attending the FEI steward's course, Melbourne.

Minutes moved: The minutes of the last meeting October 14th 2008 are accepted as a true and accurate record. (Bronwyn Doong, Shane Rose) Carried.

PRESIDENTS REPORT.

Do you remember a time when we thought that the year 2000 was in the distant future? Then, we were getting ready for the Sydney Olympics? And now I have blinked, we are in 2009!

I hope everyone has had a fantastic Christmas and that the year ahead proves to be bigger and better for everyone!

The year ended with some great events, Wallaby Hills Derby Day was a great success which followed the new Eventing Equestriad Clinic. Although I didn't get to the new Wingham event, I hear that Belinda Bailey has done a great job, and Wagga pulled out an event that all were happy with!

Congratulations to Chris Burton, a great end to the year by winning the NSW State Eventing Championships at the Baxter Boots Goulburn CIC3*, and then pulling out the big guns and proving himself a force to be reckoned with by winning the most prestigious Adelaide CCI 4* event.

I am not sure how many times in the lead up to Adelaide I was asked if I would be attending, if not as a rider, as a spectator. Alas this was not meant to be and so I loaded up the young horses and family and found myself up at Hidden Valley. A small event still with a very keen bunch of volunteers all with their blue hats and t-shirts, made a fun-filled low pressure weekend. And as sad as I was to not be attending Berrima with my tribe of friends and supporters I am very happy to say that I missed all the excitement of the wild weather and problems that it may have caused both riders and officials.

As ENSW is a council of EFA NSW, it is exciting to see and hear that our eventers, horses, riders and programs are being rewarded. In a year in which the equestrian community fought and overcame Equine Influenza, Eventing through the passion of many people still managed to attain fantastic results both here and internationally. At the recent NSWIS Awards, Equestrian won the award for Regional Excellence, acknowledging the great success of our squad program in regional areas and the impact it had on our Olympic achievements. This program not only helps our elite riders to progress, but also encourages coaches, and gives a fantastic springboard to the riders that want to learn through the use of user pays system. Remember you can always go and watch and learn too. Congratulations to Judy Fasher and the NSWIS equestrian program team, and of course the riders and coaches, for this win.

The National Eventing Talent Search Squad Day for NSW had a few lovely horses turn up. The day itself provided some of the coldest weather, and while Wayne Roycroft and Judy Fasher tried to stay dry in the car all horses were assessed on paces and jumping ability. I believe that we here in NSW will have some lovely horses on this squad and will have the benefits of being part of the squad schools to produce new and up and coming combinations that may not have been found.

Since Christmas and New Year I'm sure there are many up and coming juniors waiting eagerly for the Mirrabooka Junior and Young Rider Summer School. Although I do remember that it was the parents that had the most fun at the last school!

On a personal note, A Big Thankyou to all my family, friends, clients and supporters and most of all to the Eventing Community in another year fulfilled. I want to wish everyone great success in achieving their own personal goals and dreams in 2009! Wherever we are and whatever we are doing in our daily lives, we will meet up at our fantastic venues and enjoy the sport we all work so hard to excel at!

Yours in Eventing, Sharmayne Spencer

TREASURERS REPORT.

Bank balance as at 30/11/2008 \$55338.62.

A surplus of \$2,700.21 for the period - 1st July to 31st October.

Full financial reports were tabled at the meeting and are available from eventing.nsw@bigpond.com

SECRETARY'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE.

	<u>From/ To</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	Email Correspondence	Entry taking	Distributed to be discussed
2	Vince Roche	Entry taking	Distributed to be discussed
3	Nicholas Doong	Entry taking	Distributed to be discussed
4	ENSW	Eventing in Crisis	Distributed to be discussed
5	Email Correspondence	Eventing in Crisis	Distributed to be discussed
6	Geoff Sinclair	Eventing in Crisis	Distributed to be discussed
7	Corbro	leader board nomination	Distributed to be discussed
11	EFA NSW	VIP	to be discussed
8	EFA NSW	September Board minutes	
9	EFA NSW	October Board minutes	
10	EFA NSW	Gow Gates	
12	<u>ENSW</u>	Swabbing costs	to be discussed
13	DNSW	Eventing & judging clinic	to be discussed
14	Nominate	data correction	

MATTERS ARISING & CORRESPONDENCE.

New boxes for equipment were discussed. Karl Steininger has received a quote for \$200 per box – aluminium checker-plate with lock and welded joins.

Motion: Karl Steininger to arrange purchase of boxes and fittings for clocks & radios, up to \$200 per box. (Tina Stafford, Bronwyn Doong) Carried

Clubs need to take some responsibility for delivery or pick of Eventing equipment for their Events.

Motion: The host club of the next event is responsible for arranging delivery or pick up of equipment from the event prior to their event. (Bronwyn Doong, Alex Townsend) Carried

ENSW receives a 'swabbing' grant from EFA NSW to pay for medication control at events. Swabbing at some events has been over budget and over what is required by the Medication Control Rules. The ENSW medication Control account will have a deficit for the period July 08 to June 09. OC's in conjunction with the GJ & Veterinary Delegate are responsible for swabbing. Stewards do not make decisions regarding number of swabs to be carried out or who should be swabbed.

Motion: ENSW to advise the NSW Chief Swabbing Steward that each event must only use the minimum kits allowed under the FEI & EFA requirements. The Organising Committee in conjunction with the Ground Jury and Veterinary Delegate may alter this in exceptional circumstances. (Shane Rose, Judy Fasher) Carried.

Eventing NSW to place an advertisement in Centreline calling for Judges who may be interested in 'The pathways to becoming an FEI Eventing Judge' An FEI school will be held at Sydney 3DE September 2009.

Alex Townsend read a letter received from Dressage NSW. Eventing NSW to assist Dressage NSW with planned workshops with an Eventing component. ENSW thanks Dressage NSW for assisting.

Express Eventing: The Committee watched a video available on UTUBE showing Express Eventing. The Committee felt that Express Eventing was not what the sport was about.

Motion: As a Committee Eventing NSW does not support the concept of Express Eventing and does not support or encourage this concept. (Vince Roche, Judy Fasher) Carried

EFA NSW V.I.P. (Volunteer Important Person) A ballot was conducted for Eventing V.I.P. 2008. Many worthy nominations were received. Vince Roche and Rod Winchester received the most votes and will be nominated for the final EFA NSW V.I.P. Congratulations to Vince and Rod and ENSW wishes success in the final selection process.

'Eventing in Crisis' paper.

Replies were tabled.

The Committee felt that the FEI, EFA National and social issues need to be separated. ENSW to separate the FEI issues and forward to NEC for consideration. The national economic and funding issues should be forwarded to EFA NSW to pursue.

The extra cost associated with running CIC's is considerable and National needs to address a more equitable arrangement for distribution of the available Federal funding, including ICDF and High Performance funding.

ENSW needs to be clear about the issues and match solutions to the issues.

Alex Townsend and Judy Fasher will explore the option of ENSW accessing funding through ICDF & High Performance Funding as a group application for all NSW CIC Events. Christine Hill (Wagga) to be invited to join Alex and Judy.

Neil Kennedys' second document about 'Eventing In Crisis' was tabled and discussed. The issues need to be addressed. The Committee believed it was necessary to prepare solutions to the problems before further discussion with EFA National. Many of the problems are common to other sports and a well thought out plan will assist in finding a resolution to the problems.

Alex Townsend will start work on a business plan for ENSW; National requested a business plan and the plan will assist in the applications for funding. Helen Hamilton-James will be invited to assist. Vicki Burgess to assist Alex and Helen.

EFA NSW is investigating options to assist the NSW Discipline Councils with funding for FEI and National officials.

A discussion took place regarding the current horse levy. Increasing the levy is a consideration, but ENSW needs to look at what any increase is to be used for.

Website: the Committee discussed the upgrading of the website. A more modern interactive website is needed.

Motion: Alex Townsend to head a sub-committee to look into website development. The sub-committee will investigate options and present options to the ENSW Committee. (Shane Rose, Alex Townsend) Carried

Entry Taking: All correspondence was tabled. Vince Roche's paper was considered and is copied below.

Entries and Eventing in NSW

The question of the taking of entries has arisen again. While I appreciate good debate – and this issue certainly has some worthy arguments on either side – I am disappointed to see that there is a degree of personal attack taking place. All of the protagonists are in my opinion capable, intelligent and generous of their time and energy towards the sport – but strong personalities – hence the inevitable personality clashes. Emails of the “he said, she said, he did, she did” type reduce the argument to a petty personality clash. Therefore, I have, as requested, talked to most (if not all) of those participating in the debate, read their emails, and have tried to cut through the personality issues to get to the real issues. I hope to summarise these as I see them, and then draw some conclusions and then formulate some personal recommendations to go forward.

It is worth considering the history of entry taking through the last decade, and the debate about centralised entries since then (particularly at the time of the decision about the current levy system). A number of significant developments since then such as Internet entries, Internet payment, the FEI and EFA qualification systems, the FEI and EFA results requirements, the loss of riders and ENSW monies from a centralised entries provider and EI – to name a few – make it timely to review the matter. It is not helpful to state categorically that the decision should have been made previously – as some of these issues have only arisen in the last year or so. But the debate should now take place, as the short term decision made by the ENSW executive in July in a situation of some pressure, was always intended to be revisited by the full Council in December.

As I see it, the benefits of some type of centralised entry taking are as follows:

1. Protection of riders monies.
2. Protection of Council's levies.
3. Smooth running of checking qualifications for National and FEI events and submitting entries to the FEI for qualification checking.
4. Proper production of results for the FEI and the National Database.
5. Record keeping for the DPI.
6. Standardised system easier for riders to use.
7. Efficiency of regularly performed task.

The disadvantages of centralised entry taking are as follows:

1. Lack of autonomy to clubs
2. Perception of some (but not all) clubs that they lose the “feel” for their event.
3. Lack of flexibility for clubs to take late entries and make late class changes
4. Delays in receiving entry information / data for scoring.
5. The introduction of an extra person into the club's loop
6. The frequent diversion of the ENSW secretary from other duties.
7. The “tarring” of all clubs – efficient and capable/experienced, inefficient and less capable/experienced – with the same brush.

Some other observations that I would make are:

1. Many of the problems arise from the ENSW secretary and/or clubs arise from trying to help the riders – accepting late entries, accepting incomplete entries, changing classes – and in fact often a small set of repeat offenders, often professional riders. These riders have worked out that they can save significant money by entering late to avoid scratching. These entries are not taken on the Internet, exposing clubs to the risk of bouncing cheques. A large part of entry secretaries' time is spent meeting the needs of a small number of riders, who are therefore being perversely rewarded for bad behavior.
2. These changes take place right up to the time of the event, causing ongoing instability to the entries/scoring database.
3. Some clubs inadvertently make the matter worse by changing the closing date for entries.
4. The most data errors (eg incorrect spelling, incorrect EFA and FEI numbers, missing information) occur with the “amateur” event secretaries and the least with internet entries (ie Nominate).
5. A system where entries are taken by a club, passed to ENSW secretary for “standardising” and checking, sent back to the club for scoring at the event, and then back to the ENSW secretary for formatting for FEI and EFA results, more often breaks down when insufficient time is allowed for each process. This is particularly the case when clubs choose a later than usual closing date or extend the closing date, and even more so when numerous late entries are taken. When the system breaks down, clubs are inconvenienced by delays in getting entries data for scorers, and the ENSW secretary forced to correct the same data errors twice – a frustrating inefficiency.
6. From my experience, a later closing date for entries still results in the same number of late entries – but much less time to deal with them. Likewise, extending a closing date rarely brings in a significant number of new entries, but institutionalises the practice of entering late. The consistent application of a standard interval for close of entries, combined with a significant financial charge (consistently applied) for late entries would not only result in a smoother process for clubs as well as a disincentive for holding off entering (which reflects the significant extra work involved with taking and timetabling a late entry). Bad behaviors would rapidly improve in most cases.
7. It is essential for clubs to receive full financial information and a financial “trail” to ascertain that who has paid how much for what, how and when, and who has been refunded etc. Previous entry takers have not had systems to provide this. This is most easily provided by a fully computerized entries system.
8. The current system used by Nominate still may expose riders, clubs and ENSW to some risk, as the money is forwarded only at the direction of the Nominate management. While I have no reason to doubt the honesty of the Nominate management (or any other Internet entries system), an ideal system would give clubs control over their money and ENSW control over its levies.
9. The overwhelming majority of riders now have access to the Internet and indeed regularly use the Internet for other activities (eg Internet banking, RTA registration renewals etc)
10. The experience of several recent events in stipulating Nominate for all entries resulted in 80-90% adherence. The remaining 10-20% caused proportionately much more work for entries secretaries than those who entered on the Internet.
11. It is possible to separate the functions of taking entries, cleansing data, doing draws, scoring and formatting results, provided that shareholders develop a mutually agreed timetable and procedure, and stick to it.

With all these things considered, I submit the following list of recommendations for 2009:

1. All entries be taken by Nominate or an approved equivalent internet service.
2. Any entries done by fax / pen & paper / phone must attract an agreed surcharge to reflect the extra work and complexity and disruption caused by such entries. Any exception to this surcharge undermines the entire system and must be avoided by clubs. I would suggest an appropriate surcharge as (say) \$30 or \$40. I predict that there will be 99% compliance within weeks.
3. The current CCN/CIC entry date should be moved to a set time – consistent for all events – I suggest 16 days prior to the event. The 16 days means that entries are due on a Thursday (not a Friday, when the attention is on the event the next day). The 16 days is significantly shorter than the current 22 days - answering the criticism that fear of costly scratchings due to injury encourage professional riders to enter as late as possible.
4. Any late entry – ie anytime after midnight on the closing date – must be made by fax / pen & paper (ie the Internet entries provider will “turn off” the entries at the nominated time) and will attract the surcharge as suggested above. Again, any exception to this surcharge undermines the entire system and must be avoided by clubs. Accepting late entries is of course subject to the determination of the OC – subject to available places, for example.
5. Clubs must be able to download the entries so far on any given day prior to the closing date, so entries secretaries / clubs can monitor entries, organize judges, arenas, timetables etc.
6. An agreed timetable must be followed to allow all participants adequate time to perform their roles.

Day -16 (Thursday)	Close of Internet Entries	Data visible to OC but not to be used / formatted etc
Day -12 (Monday)	Entries Data sent to ENSW secretary for data cleansing / qualification checking	
Day -10 (Wednesday)	Data cleansing / qualification checking complete – correct data sent to Organising Committee (OC)	

Day -4 (Tuesday)	Draw completed by OC or Draw Provider	
Day -3 (Wednesday)	Draw posted on club, Nominate and ENSW websites	Last day for late off-line entries /changes.
	Change data sent by OC to ENSW for checking.	
Day -2 (Thursday)	Checked data returned to OC for scoring purposes.	
Day +1 (Monday)	Results sent to ENSW for formatting / checking and insertion in EFA Database and forwarding to FEL.	

7. Further consideration needs to be given about the issue of financial risk to riders, clubs and council in a centralised entry system. While financial losses have previously occurred at individual events, the risk is clearly higher in the case of a central Internet service that may hold monies from several events at any given time. An ideal system would have either a bank guarantee (this could possibly be the case if Credit Cards are used) or use a secure system such as Paypal.
8. Clubs may choose to do their own draws or may contract this out to third parties. Such parties will not handle monies.
9. Clubs may do their own scoring or may contract this out to third parties. This is subject to meeting the EFA Eventing Rules requirements and ENSW requirements for providing electronic results in the correct format within a day of the end of the event.
10. Internet entries providers must be approved by ENSW. Such approval would be subject to (but not limited to) details such as:
 - a. Proper set up to gather required data for One Day and Three Day Events
 - b. Ability for OCs to view updates of current state of entries at any time
 - c. Financial security as discussed above
 - d. Proper provision of financial information/records to OCs
 - e. Able to take bookings for supplementary services (eg stabling, camping, bedding) and provide information/records of this to OCs

Clubs may choose to use any approved Internet entries provider.

11. The smooth running of this system is totally dependent on clubs following the rules. Any exceptions would quickly undermine the system. Clubs must close Internet entries at the agreed time and must apply the surcharge for late and off-line entries. No exceptions. United we stand, divided we fall!

I think that the certainty of timetable and the improvement in rider timeliness and behaviour will make life much easier for Organising Committees. I think that the currently compliant riders will no longer be put at a disadvantage by the repeat offenders who take advantage of our current practices and club goodwill. I also believe that the shortening of the interval from entry to event will be greeted favorably by riders. I believe that the workload of the ENSW secretary will be more manageable and more able to be focused on other core business.

Vince Roche

14.11.08

After discussion by the Committee, it was decided that the list of recommendations contained in Vince's document be implemented.

Motion: The necessary data from the National database be released to ENSW for use by Nominate and other ENSW approved online entry systems for efficiency and cost effective management of events. Judy Fasher, Alex Townsend) carried.

Motion: In 2009 the \$2.50 Entry Secretary rebate is made redundant. Every club to add 5% onto entry fees to cover the cost of using on-line entries. (Shane Rose, Tina Stafford) carried.

ENSW to put a flyer in the January Eventer and advise all members of the changes to entry system for 2009.

Clubs may choose to take late entries but a late entry fee must always be applied.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

An Event Organiser Seminar is needed assist clubs with running events.

It was decided that a seminar would be conducted on the 7th February. Sue Gunn will arrange venue & agenda details.

ENSW to provide a kit for all participants - containing all relevant information. Carrie McInnes has previously offered to update the Event Organisers Handbook. Vicki and Carrie to coordinate the updating of the handbook.

Meeting closed 10.30 pm

Next meeting February 10th.